

Propagation of the Olive in the United States.

DURING the past season, the Patent Office has distributed in the Southern States bordering on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, choice cuttings of the olive, selected in the South of France. It is already well known that this product has been cultivated in some parts of **Florida** and California for many years; and, doubtless, there are other sections of country uniting the conditions necessary for the growth and perfection of its roots. It may be stated that, while the Floridas were held by the English in 1769, one Dr. **Turnbull**, a famous adventurer of that nation, brought over from Smyrna a colony of fifteen hundred Greeks and Minorcas, and founded the settlement of New Smyrna on the Mosquito River. One of the principal treasures which they brought from their native land was the olive. Bartram, who visited this colony in 1775, describes that place as a flourishing town. Its prosperity, however, was of momentary duration. Driven to despair by hardship, oppression, and disease, a part of these unhappy exiles died, while others conceived the hardy enterprise of embarking for Havana in an open boat, and in three years their number was reduced to five hundred. The rest removed to St. Augustine, when the Spaniards resumed possession of the country, and in 1783 a few decaying huts and several large olive-trees were the only remains to be seen of their wearied industry. Numerous attempts, at different times, have been made to propagate the olive from seeds, in various parts of the South, which have proved unsuccessful. This want of success may be attributed, in part, to the tendency of the olive to sprout into inferior varieties when propagated from seeds; but after the experiment has been fairly tested by cuttings of choice and well-proved varieties, it is hoped that this "first among trees" will sooner or later become celebrated in the regions of the South.

Mr. R. Chisholm, in a recent communication to the Charleston (South Carolina) *Mercury*, states that he has cultivated two kinds of the olive for ten years, and that its fruit ripens fully in the low countries of the South. He has now three hundred trees under cultivation, but he believes that it cannot be cultivated at present for the sake of its oil, as cotton is a more profitable crop.